

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014291 TOSEC 010043

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014291 TOSEC 010043

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UNIFICATION OF OPPOSITION GROUPS

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

1. EMBASSY MADRID REPORTS THAT THERE NOW EXISTS A REALISTIC PROSPECT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED OPPOSITION FRONT CONSISTING OF THE COMMUNIST-LED JUNTA DEMOCRATICA AND THE NON-COMMUNIST COALITION CALLED THE PLATFORM OF DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE. THE LARGEST SPANISH SOCIALIST GROUP (PSOE, WHOSE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ ATTENDED THE SOCIALIST MEETING IN COPENHAGEN) AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE LONG RESISTED COMMUNIST IMPORTUNINGS TO FORM A JOINT ORGANIZATION. APPARENTLY THE PCE IS NOW WILLING TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ON BOTH PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO WIN OVER THE NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS, AND THE NEW FRONT MAY BE HERALDED SHORTLY BY A JOINT STATEMENT ON ITS POLITICAL PROGRAM.

2. THE FIRST PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THE MERGER TREND MAY TAKE PLACE IN MADRID THIS EVENING, WHEN PROVINCIAL-
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PAGE 02 STATE 014291 TOSEC 010043

LEVEL COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE CALLED FOR

A JOINT DEMONSTRATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED

THAT IT WILL NOT PERMIT THIS DEMONSTRATION, BUT MADRID
HAS BEEN TOLD THAT FORCE WILL NOT BE USED UNLESS THE
DEMONSTRATION PROVOKES IT.

3. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHETHER THE PCE WILL
SUCCEED IN ENTICING THE PLATFORM'S NON-COMMUNIST
GROUPS INTO A POPULAR FRONT. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS
THAT THE PSOE LEADERSHIP IS UNDER INTERNAL PRESSURE
FOR A UNIFIED OPPOSITION, AND SOME CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
MIGHT DECIDE THEY HAD TO FOLLOW THE PSOE LEAD.
DESPITE ITS CONCESSIONS ON FORM AND DOCTRINE, THE PCE WOULD
BE THE WINNER IN AN ARRANGEMENT THAT KEPT THE MAIN NON-
COMMUNIST POLITICAL GROUPS FROM PARTICIPATING LEGALLY IN
SPAIN'S CHANGING POLITICAL PROCESS. SISCO

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